This facility will be available to scientists to analyse ice cores, lake sediments, rocks samples etc., essential for carrying out research on paleo-climate and past climatic changes. This research in turn will help in testing complex climate models and improving the weather prediction capabilities of the country.

Voting right to migrated Indians

†1530. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give right to vote to the migrated Indians settled in other countries including the Gulf Countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the countries from where demand has been made by migrated Indians with regard to right to vote?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No. Section 19(b) of the R.P. Act, 1950 provides that only a person who is ordinarily resident in a constituency shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for that constituency. Accordingly, any person who is not ordinarily resident in a constituency is not entitled to be registered in the electoral roll.

(b) There has been a demand from the Gulf region that NRIs should be permitted to exercise their franchise in Indian elections, both for Parliament and for the various State Legislatures.

Prime Minister's meeting with NRIs

1531. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister met NRIs in New York in September, 2004;

(b) if so, the points discussed and ideas emanated; and

(c) the action taken to create a more attractive climate for foreign investment?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.